

Nevada State Health Division

Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance

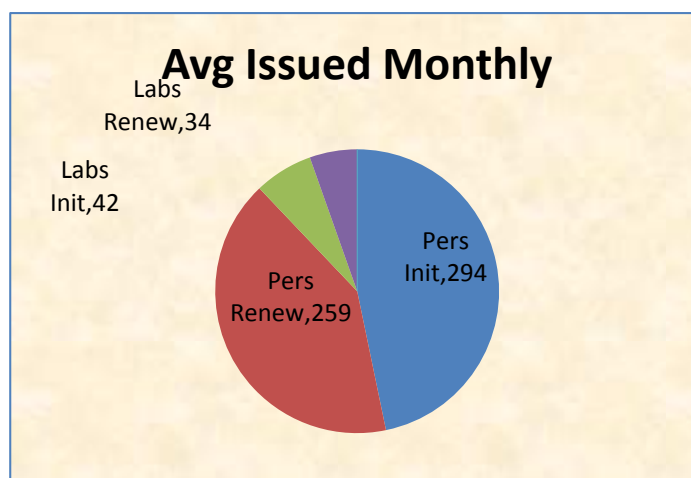
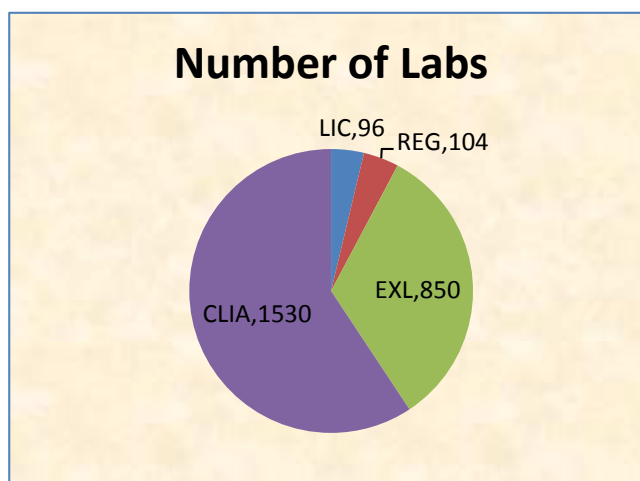
Medical Laboratories



Medical Laboratory Services celebrated National Laboratory Week April 23-27, 2012 by hosting a punch and dessert reception at the HCQC office in Carson City on Thursday, April 15, 2012. The theme for this year was, "Doing our best with every test." National Laboratory Week is celebrated throughout the country in April to honor dedicated laboratory personnel who work tirelessly behind the scenes as part of the health care team to help provide the best care for patients.

HCQC Medical Laboratory Services is comprised of four full-time surveyors —two in Carson City and two in Las Vegas to conduct state licensure surveys, state periodic surveys, CLIA surveys, hospital surveys and complaint investigations. The surveyors are typically medical technologists with many years of multidisciplinary experience working in a licensed laboratory qualifying as a General Supervisor in the Nevada State personnel certification tier. There are three different types of laboratories regulated by the Health Division: 1. Licensed laboratories (LIC) which provide laboratory services to the general medical profession; 2. Registered laboratories (REG) which provide services to patients of a particular physician and the partner and associates of his private practice; and 3. Exempt laboratories (EXL) which basically perform limited tests classified as "CLIA-waived" for patients of a particular physician and the partner and associates of his private practice. State surveys are conducted for initial applications and whenever

changes are made; such as changes in location, director, ownership and tests offered and periodically on an 18-month survey schedule. On-site surveys may be conducted for out of state laboratories applying for Nevada state licensure. Currently, we have laboratories from Massachusetts, Georgia, Tennessee, Kansas, Texas and California licensed. CLIA surveys are conducted on a biennial schedule for those laboratories registering with CLIA for a Certificate of Compliance. With the number of labs as seen in the pie chart below, the four surveyors are kept very busy to meet the survey demands.



There are three full-time administrative assistants and one part-time contract assistant to evaluate applications, transcripts and work history to assess regulatory compliance and then process and issue initial and renewal certificates for laboratory personnel. There are many levels of personnel certificates issued from Office Laboratory Assistants to Licensed Laboratory Directors. Laboratory applications for initial, changes, health fairs and renewals are also evaluated for regulatory compliance prior to being processed. After compliance is determined by the surveyors, the licenses are issued. The administrative assistants also maintain the CLIA laboratory database for Nevada. Even with the heavy workload, they provide courteous and professional customer service to the many inquiries and callers seeking guidance to navigate the application process.

As stated as the theme for National Laboratory Week, the staff in Medical Laboratory Services also strives to “do our best with every task.”